

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00699 171552Z
ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /055 W
-----171746Z 082890 /46
R 161620Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6116

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0699

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, AG
SUBJECT: MOSTAGANEM PAPER PLANT

REF: STATE 44789

1. FOREIGNERS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT MOSTAGANEM PAPER PLANT, WHICH UNDER CONSTRUCTION SINCE 1968 AND TO HAVE BEEN ON STREAM IN 1971, STATE THAT PLANT HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY SERIES OF TROUBLES INCLUDING FAULTY WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM, SHORTAGES OF GAS AND WATER, EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWNS AND POOR CONSTRUCTION. ACCORDING TO ORIGINAL TERMS OF CONTRACT, PLANT WAS TO HAVE PRODUCED 200 TONS/DAY ESPARTO GRASS PULP AND 100 TONS/DAY WRITING PAPER. ACTUAL OUTPUT FAR SHORT OF THIS, HOWEVER. TO DATE, ABOUT \$400 MIL. HAS BEEN INVESTED IN PLANT. CREUSOT-LOIRE (FRENCH) HAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WHICH IT TOOK OVER IN 1973 FROM PARSONS AND WHITTEMORE, FRANCE.

2. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCES, IMPROVEMENT OF WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM WOULD CONSTITUTE MAJOR UPGRADING OF PLANT'S OPERATION. LEVEL OF MANAGERIAL SKILLS AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW REQUIRE SOME ATTENTION, HOWEVER, BEFORE PLANT COULD BE CONSIDERED PROFITABLE.

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00699 171552Z

3. ACCORDING TO 1975 FIGURES, FRANCE WAS MAJOR SUPPLIER OF QUALITY PAPER TO ALGERIA. IN SAME YEAR ALGERIA EXPORTED SMALL QUANTITIES PAPER TO W. GERMANY AND NETHERLANDS. RECENT SALES HAVE BEEN TO EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. LYNE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: EFIN, AG
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